

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SCS-03 FBO-02 SCCT-01

DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01

SY-05 IO-13 CU-02 PPT-01 IGA-02 PER-01 /111 W

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O 041310Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 921

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5852

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DEPT PASS AMMAN, ATHENS, ETC..)

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO IMMEDIATE: AMMAN, ATHENS,  
DAMASCUS, LONDON, TEL AVIV, USUN, FOSIF ROTA  
SPAIN, DIA WASHDC

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO ROUTINE: ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, CAIRO,  
JIDDA, KUWAIT, PARIS, ROME, STUTTGART FOR ELG,  
TEHRAN, CIA WASHDC, COMSIXTHFLT0 COMPHIBRON FOUR,  
COM THREE TWO MAU, CTF SIX ZERO, CTF SIX ONE, CTF  
SIX TWO, CTG SIX ZTYOPPT TWO, FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 4: TELL ZAATAR BEING MOPPED UP;  
PALESTINIANS CONDEMN SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES'

INDIFFERENCE

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REF: BEIRUT 5824

1. SUMMARY: TELL ZAATAR BATTLE STILL NOT COMPLETELY OVER, AS  
CHRISTIANS APPEAR CAREFUL TO AVOID ADVERSE PUBLICITY OF

BLOODBATH AT END. INTENSIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES ALONG SECONDARY FRONTS IN BEIRUT AREA, BUT PALESTINAINS UNABLE RELIEVE BESIEGED CAMP, BLAMING ADVERSE SYRIAN ARTILLERY FIRE. FIGHTING ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT AREA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY INDECISIVE. AL DELEGATION CALLS ON PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST SIDE AS 51ST CEASEFIRE FACES INTO OBLIVION. FATAH DEPUTY KHALAF BITTERLY DENOUNCES SYRIAN ROLE AND ARAB STATES' INDIFFERENCE TO FATE OF TELL ZAATAR, THREATENS END OF ATTEMPTS AT DIALOGUE AND REPRISALS AGAINST NUMEROUS ARAB REGIMES WHEN CAMP FALLS. LEBANESE SIDES HARDEN ATTITUDES. LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONVOY DEPARTED BEIRUT FOR DAMASCUS EARLY JULY 4. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING GROUND ACTION LULL OF SEVERAL HOURS, DURING WHICH SHELLING OF CAMP CONTINUED, CHRISTIANS AGAIN MOUNTED ASSAULTS ON TELL ZAATAR AND ARE NOW WITHIN CAMP PERIMETER. THOUGH ASSAULT NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL, MAJOR GROUND ACTION HAS :3- 3\$. CHRISTIANS APPEAR STILL UNWILLING TAKE HEAVY CASUALTIES FINAL PUSH WOULD REQUIRE, BUT THEY ARE CLAIMING CAMP HAS FALLEN AND ANNOUNCE ENEMY WOUNDED WILL BE TURNED OVER TO RED CROSS ON JULY 5. IN TELL ZAATAR AN IMMENSE FIRE, VISIBLE SEVERAL MILES, BEGAN AT MIDNIGHT JULY 3, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW CAUSE. COMTWP  
TDPALESTINIAN/LEFTIST ATTACK ON  
KAHALE WAS SIMULTANEOUS WITH ASSAULTS ON BSOUSS, BDEDOUN, HOUMAL AND ARAYA ALL IN SAME AREA. ALL ASSAULTS APPARENTLY UNSECCESFUL. PALESTINIANS HAVE ANGRILY DENOUNCED SYRIANS FOR ASSISTING CHRISTIANS IN SEVERAL AREAS BY SHELLING PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST FORCES, PARTICULARLY RELIEF FORCE AT MONTE VERDE S  
ONG TO RELIEVE TELL ZAATAR. VIOLENT ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUE ALONG BEIRUT'S EAST/WEST DIVIDING LINE AND HEAVY BUT INDECISIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES AT CHWYAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH AND AT HADETH/LAYLAKE.

3. ELSEWHERE, SYRIANS, HAVE STILL NOT COMPLETELY RETREATED FROM SIDON AREA AND SHELLED VESSEL ATTEMPTING ENTER PORT JULY 3.  
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VESSEL SAID BY LEFTISTS TO BE CARRYING FLOUR, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE LIBYANS OR OTHERS THINKING ABOUT BRINGING IN ARMS SHIPMENTS. IN BEKAA CITIES AND IN NORTH LEBANON, SYRIAN BLOCKADES AND FIGHTING CONTINUE. PALESTINIAN SOURCES CLAIM CLASHES WITH SYRIAN TROOPS IN LAKKAR, AT HERMEL AND NEAR OUYOUN EL-SIMANE. HOWEVER, VIOLENCE IN FARAYA/OUYOUN EL-SIMANE AREA APPEARS REDUCED TO ARTILLERY EXCHANGES. VOICE OF LEBANON (KATAEB) ANNOUNCED NEW DEGENERATION OF SITUATION IN NORTH LEBANON WITH BOMBARDMENTS IN AREAS OF RAS-NAHACHE, HAMAT, CHEKKA, ENFE AND AIN IKRINE.

4. DESPITE CEASEFIRE BREAKDOWN, AL DELEGATION CONTINUED EFFORTS WITH JULY 3 VISIT TO WEST BEIRUT BY HELICOPTER FROM DAMASCUS. SEC GEN RIAD, TUNISIAN AND BAHRAINI FOREIGN

MINISTERS, AS WELL AS DEPUTY SEC GEN KHALAF AND AL MILITARY FORCE CHIEF- OF - STAFF COL. CHEDID, MET WITH PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST LEADERS AT PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BEFORE RETURN TO DAMASCUS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH SYRIANS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARAB ARMY-CONTROLLED RADIO LEBANON, RIAD HAD ASKED FRANGIE AND GEMAYEL TO ALLOW AL FORCES INTO TELL ZAATAR AS OBSERVERS. WE HAVE NO WORD OF RESPONSE ALTHOUGH RIGHTISTS THEMSELVES MADE SIMILAR REQUEST TO AL DURING PAST WEEK. AL THREESOME INTENDS PROCEED TO CAIRO JULY 4, PERHAPS AFTER ANOTHER VISIT TO LEB TTU

5. FATAH NUMBER TWO SALAH KHALAF BROKE THROUGH THIN LAYER OF CORDIALITY REMAINING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND DAMASCUS IN FIRST HIGH-LEVEL PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ATTACKING ASSAD PERSONALLY AS AUTHOR OF PLOT. KHALAF DESCRIBES MARONITE "K FOUR FRONT" AS ONLY A SYRIAN INSTRUMENT AND ATTACK ON TELL ZAATAR AS PART OF SYRIAN PLOT. "IF TELL ZAATAR IS TAKEN WE WILL ERASE THE WORDS CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE FROM OUR DICTIONARY." KHALAF IMPLICATED REST OF ARAB WORLD AS WELL: "IF TELL ZAATAR FALLS, MANY ARAB REGIMES WILL FALL AS WELL." PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WITH ARABS, HE SAID, "WILL BE FUNCTION OF THEIR POSITIONS ON THE CAMP." KHALAF ALSO ACCUSES CH TC EETT

SZFR.#CHA

RBEL KASSIS OF HAVING ACCEPTED DIRECT MILITARY AID FROM ISRAEL, BUT SAYS PHALANGISTS HAVE TRIED AVOID THIS. PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTISTS RECEIVING ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT, BUT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON TOPIC HAVE BEEN AVOIDED UNTIL THIS PAST WEEK. PALESTINIANS SEEM TO BE SUGGESTING POINT OF NO RETURN HAS BEEN REACHED ON COOPERATING WITH LEBANESE RIGHT. Wafa reports YASSIR ARAFAT ARRIVED BEIRUT 0300 JULY 4 LOCAL, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION.

6. ON CHRISTIAN SIDE, HARDENED ATTITUDES ARE ALSO SURFACING. CHAMOUN MADE STATEMENT JULY 3 SAYING FRANGIE OUGHT NOT RESIGN BEFORE END OF HIS TERM AS PREMATURE DEPARTURE WOULD EXPOSE THE HIGHEST OFFICE TO ATTACK. STATEMENT IS MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD CHAMOUN INDICATION TO DATE THAT HE PUTS NO STOCK IN SARKIS AND ROUND TABLE. PIERRE GEMAYEL ISSUED JULY 3 DECLARATION WITH HIS OLD IDEA THAT PALESTINIANS OUGHT TO BE DIVIDED AMONG ARAB STATES NOW THAT THEY HAVE DEVIATED FROM THEIR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES. GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR STATED FLATLY THAT CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIAN STATUS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS CEASEFIRE CONDITION SINCE THEY CONSTITUTE ONLY "PARTIAL SOLUTION" OF PROBLEM.

7. ON OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, JUMBLATT REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD AL SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD THAT PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE "NATIONAL MOVEMENT" WILL NOT SIT AT ROUND TABLE SO LONG AS

SINGLE SYRIAN SOLDIER REMAINS IN LEBANON. SAEB SALAM ISSUED  
STATEMENT ACCUSING FRANGIE OF DEALING WITH AL IN DUAL ROLES  
AS BOTH CHIEF OF STATE AND LEADER OF "FRONT OF KFOUR."

8. GERMAN-SPONSORED CONVOY OF SOME 80 VEHICLES LEFT BEIRUT  
EARLY JULY 4 FOR DAMASCUS. INCLUDED AMONG 280 PASSENGERS,  
MANY FOREIGNERS, WERE 30 AMCITS AND DEPENDENTS AND 29  
AID/AUB PARTICIPANTS, INTENDING ONWARD TRAVEL TO HOME STATES  
FROM DAMASCUS. SOME 90 AID/AUB STUDENTS REMAIN IN  
BEIRUT. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN POSITION OF URGING THEM TO LEAVE  
ON SAME BASIS AS OTHER PERSONS FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.  
AUB CONTINUES TO FUNCTION ON LIMITED BASIS.  
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED CIAE,DODE.

NOT PASSED OTHER ADDRESSEES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 15 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BEIRUT05852  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D760263-0445  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaerst.tel  
**Line Count:** 180  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 4: TELL ZAATAR BEING MOPPED UP;  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT, LE  
**To:** STATE INFO USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GERMANY  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY  
**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006